Railway has filed contempt petition in Rajasthan High Court to prevent the unauthorised mining.

Stability of rail routes

1453. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has admitted for the first time that its 200-km. rail route falls under an instability zone;

(b) whether with repeated incidents the running of bullet train to ply on the tracks has proved unsafe; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to make the rail journey safe on these vulnerable tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Konkan Railway have proposed running one train at a maximum speed of 150 kmph from Madgaon to Roha and trial run were conducted from 26th to 29th December, 2002. However, before permitting this train, the infrastructure arrangement for ensuring smooth Railway journey at such speed will also be needed.

(c) In order to make Railway journey safe during monsoon season, immediate measures such as patrolling by locomotives in advance of the passenger trains and speed restriction of 40 kmph, have been taken in addition to patrolling of vulnerable spots. Provision of audiovisual pre-warning alarm devices in all deep cuttings, more than 12 metre in depth, is under consideration. One round of special loose scaling on massive scale has also been taken up in rock cuttings.

STD booths to educated unemployed

1454. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accord priority to the educated unemployed youths while making allotments for STD booths,